information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package
insert
for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions.
This
is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed
drug.

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Preface

This volume represents the edited version of the lectures and short communications presented at the '2nd International Diabetes Conference' on the Vascular and Neurologic Complications of Diabetes Mellitus, held in Florence
(Italy) on November 7-9, 1985. Diabetes complications are certainly an area where in recent years intensive research has been carried out and significant progress has been done with regard to both the pathogenetic mechanisms and the clinical or therapeutic aspects. This has prompted us to organize a Conference on these topics and to publish its contents in this proceedings volume, in order to provide the interested physician or scientist with an updated survey of the various aspects of diabetes complications.

Reflecting the contents of the Conference, this book comprises a series of review articles on the various facets of diabetes complications, written by recognized experts in this field. The first chapter deals with the pathogenetic factors of microangiopathy, including metabolic and functional changes, nonenzymatic glycosylation, endothelial and platelet alterations, and immunologic abnormalities. This is followed by a detailed discussion of pathophysiologic and clinical aspects of diabetic nephropathy and retinopathy as well as of dyslipidemia and macroangiopathy as related to diabetes. Then an exhaustive analysis is given of diabetic peripheral and autonomic neuropathy, which is considered in its metabolic mechanism, functional disorders and clinical pictures. A report on the diabetic foot is also included. The book is enriched by a final chapter recording a group of short communications on research topics of current interest.

Preface X

We hope that this volume may provide a comprehensive account of what is presently known about the vascular and neurologic complications of diabetes mellitus and that its features may be useful to, and appreciated by scientists and clinicians interested in diabetology and metabolism. Our sincere thanks are due to the Publisher S. Karger AG and its staff for their kind and efficient cooperation.

Francesco Belfiore
Gian Michele Molinatti
Joseph R. Williamson

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